

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) Virtual Meeting
Friday, May 21, 2021**

Meeting MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commission Chair Wishart.

ROLL CALL

The commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Marshall Greenhut, Kathleen LaTosch, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

William Bupp and Peter Lichtenberg.

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Alexis Travis, Scott Wamsley, Brenda Ross, Kelly Cooper, Jen Hunt, Cynthia Farrell, Kristina Leonardi, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, Amy Hall, Lacey Charboneau, Ashley Ellsworth, Ryan Connelly, Gloria Lanum, Cindy Masterson, Amy Colletti, Sophia Hines, and Sally Steiner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF JOINT CSA AND SAC MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the April 16, 2021 joint CSA and SAC meeting minutes without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Wishart welcomed all to the virtual meeting offering thanks to commissioners for the gifts of their time and talents. The commitment to the work of the CSA and the advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated. She offered the following comments:

- We will look forward to the usual updates from the SAC and Advocacy Committee chairs, AASA leadership and staff. We will also be hearing from those wishing to share public comment either during the meeting as indicated, or during the public hearing scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Regarding the public hearing, as it has been the goal to increase attendance during hearings, she was pleased to announce a good number of individuals have requested to speak to Older Michiganian's Day, background check policy, and animatronic pets.
- The SAC will be meeting virtually on May 27, 2021 and would like a guest commissioner to share information about recent CSA meetings, listen to SAC updates, and participate in the discussions. Those commissioners who have responded to this opportunity over the years have shared positive feedback from the experience. Please email Chair Wishart if you wish to participate.
- There will be an in-service session on AIP Funding and Funding Sources during today's meeting in response to requests for continued learning.
- At the June meeting, Commissioner Lichtenberg will be providing a learning session on elder abuse and financial exploitation.
- Currently there is no information concerning the governor's appointments and reappointments to the CSA, but we do anticipate hearing news soon. We periodically must say farewell to long-serving commissioners as well as welcome newly appointed members, leading to times of transition. Once we have news from the Governor's office, we will inform the CSA members and update internal committee appointments, which will include plans for a new committee.
- Dr. Travis plans to leave her leadership role at AASA and assume a leadership role at MDHHS Public Health Administration. We celebrate her as an agent of change and on behalf of the CSA, extend a thank you to Dr Travis. She has raised the bar with her strong convictions, hard work, and leadership and deserves much success. She has inspired the CSA to reach new heights by raising her expectation of the commission and the network. A few of her accomplishments were noted.
 - Led the aging network in COVID-19 response.
 - ✓ Quarantine boxes
 - ✓ Farmers to Families food boxes
 - ✓ Partnering with GetSetUp to provide free online courses to those isolating at home.
 - Elevated the Direct Care Workforce.
- A special thank you was offered to all who helped with the Older Michiganian's Day event and the week-long advocacy effort. Thank you to the planning committee members, support staff, partner agencies, and especially those who participated in the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AASA PROGRAMS, SERVICES, POLICIES, OR ISSUES IMPACTING OLDER AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Emil Bellenbaum, a senior adult from Roscommon County, shared comments about activities occurring at the Commission on Aging (COA) in Roscommon, Michigan.

- Legal fees for sex offender inquiries being paid for out of taxpayer dollars.

- Concerns about a staff member, who is a registered sex offender and is running the COA, is intimidating older and vulnerable adults in the county to not speak of the fact he is on the sex offender registry, which is elder abuse.
- Older adults are being “bullied” in parking lots, Open Meetings Acts rules are being violated, and the senior center is randomly closed for weeks at a time.
- Another staff member, a Level 3 sex offender, is also employed at the COA.
- The newest AASA guidelines on background checks state these staff can no longer have contact with vulnerable seniors.
- After a five-month deliberation it seems Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency is close to an agreement on this subject, but he is asking for “no sex offenders, no exceptions, no excuses.”

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE

On behalf of SAC chair, Commissioner Kristie Zamora, Commission Chair Wishart provided an update on the work of the SAC.

- Thank you to commissioners and AASA staff for another successful joint CSA/SAC meeting. Even in the virtual format, important and lasting connections were made.
- Council members appreciated receiving volunteer recognition certificates from the commission in the mail.
- SAC member Alan Bond from Region 1A emailed the following: “I just want to thank you, Commission Chair Wishart, and the commission for the nice SAC Appreciation Certificate. It is a pleasure providing information and support and interacting with an outstanding array of contributors addressing issues important to the aging community.”
- SAC proudly shared their work on the 2021 report, “Social Isolation with a Focus on Equity.” The report is being review one final time by AASA leadership and being sent to MDHHS’ communication team to post on AASA’s website and for printing.
- SAC members are meeting in workgroups to learn about “Aging in Place” for the 2022 report. These workgroups meet monthly and have had good attendance and discussion. Council members are also conducting independent research and sharing with the groups.
- The next virtual meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2021.
- As mentioned in the Chair report, the SAC is requesting a guest commissioner to participate in the May 27 meeting.
- The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan’s Annual (virtual) Conference, “Stronger Together 2021” will be held on June 15 & 16. SAC will present the 2021 “Social Isolation with a Focus on Equity” report on June 16 at 12:45 p.m., Session A.
- Will be setting a meeting date for the CSA SAC review committee.
 - Several applications for review and recommendation
- Committee will also need to consider SAC bylaws review and recommendations.
- SAC member Dennis Brieske, from Coldwater, served on the Michigan Senior of the Year committee with Commission Gammouh and AASA staff Julia Thomas.

The two individuals chosen were honored at the Older Michiganian's Day virtual event.

- Special thank you to Commission Chair Wishart and commissioners for supporting the SAC, and to AASA staff for regular updates at meetings and email communications shared.
- The support from Lauren Swanson-Aprill and Kelly Cooper is greatly appreciated by Chair Zamora as well as each council member.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Advocacy Committee Chair, Commission Duncan, provided an update on the work of the committee. (She noted committee members include Commissioners Bomberg, Lopez, Strohl, and CSA Chair Wishart, and AASA staff Jen Hunt.)

- Items related to programs for aging adults in the Governor's budget.
 - Both House and Senate committees have approved the additional Medicaid waiver slots for home and community-based services.
 - Senate budget includes increase in Direct Care Worker (DCW) wages. The House budget only includes a \$100 placeholder (not yet included in their budget proposal). Five state legislators voiced their support for DCW wage increase at the Older Michiganian's Day event.
 - Please be sure to contact your state representative and senator to voice your support for these items if you have not already done so.
 - Neither chamber has funded the request for money to address the wait lists at the AAAs.
 - Legislative action will be accelerating, and the budget should be finalized sometime in June.
- Potential topics for advocacy efforts:
 - PACE programs, providing in-home services for seniors 'duly eligible' (Medicaid and Medicare).
 - Elder abuse, specifically guardianship
 - SAC report on social isolation. Will watch to see if any recommendations from the report require action.
- Working on a follow up meeting with Medical Services Administration (MSA).
 - Strengthening retention and training for direct care workers.
 - Learning session on long-term care services and support and the appropriate balance of funding between in-home and residential services.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Alexis Travis provided the following updates:

- COVID-19
 - As of May 20, 57.1 percent adults 16+ have been vaccinated.
 - Updated "Vacc to Normal" plan has been announced.
 - ✓ June 1 – all outdoor capacity limits will be lifted.
 - ✓ June 1 – indoor capacity limits increase to 50 percent.
 - ✓ July 1 – No indoor or outdoor capacity limits.
 - AASA will be issuing updated guidance for congregate services.
 - 1,372 cases yesterday.

- 881,057 total cases in Michigan
- 18,815 total deaths in Michigan
- 74 deaths on May 20
- Doctors and state and national public health leaders are urging Michigan parents to get their 12- to 15-year-old children vaccinated with Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, authorized for emergency use in this age group by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. There have been more than 1,300 COVID-related hospitalizations in children under the age of 18 in Michigan since August 2020.
- Protect Michigan Commission (PMC)
 - Partnership between PMC and Small Business Association of Michigan and Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association for "shots in arms" campaign hosted on May 20 in Lansing.
 - ✓ First 400 Lansing area restaurant, hospitality and retired workers receiving vaccination were given a gift card.
 - ✓ First event through this partnership was in Detroit on May 14. Will be coming to additional cities to include Ann Arbor, Metro Detroit, Marquette, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo in the coming weeks.
- National Core Indicators for Aging and Disability (CI-AD) project with Advancing States.
 - Includes statewide survey of older adult clients receiving home and community-based services to assess effectiveness of services, client satisfaction, and unmet needs.
 - AASA will reach out to Medical Services Administration to gauge their interest in including MI Choice waiver participants in the full-scale survey scheduled for summer 2021.
- Criminal Background Check Policies
 - Gathering survey results from other MDHHS administrations (MSA, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs & Behavioral Health) to identify where various criminal background check policies across the department are consistent or divergent.
 - Goal to coordinate policies across programs that contract with same service providers to minimize conflicting CBC requirements.
 - Survey expected to conclude next week.
- Immunization Funding
 - Distributing guidance to AAAs on \$3 million federal funding to support their assistance with COVID-19 activities.
 - Current grant agreements with AAAs E-grams and end on September 20, 2021 and remaining balances will be established in FY 22. Grant ends September 30, 2022.
- Older Michigania's Day
 - Two individuals honored – Dr. Brenda Surae Eaton from Lansing and Gloria Kovnot from Dimondale.

- Award sponsored by Consumers Energy.
- Special thank you to AASA staff Julia Thomas for coordinating the effort.
- Congratulations to 4AM and the planning committee for a wonderful Senior Action Week.
- Emergency Broadband Benefit
 - Temporary benefit providing discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service to eligible consumers struggling to stay connected during pandemic.
 - Enrollment currently open.
 - Qualifying households on tribal lands receive discount of up to \$75 per month.
 - More information can be found at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org).
- Recent AASA New Hires:
 - Amy Hall, Health Promotion and Policy Management Executive Secretary
 - ✓ Started with AASA May 3, 2021.
 - Amy comes with 29 years of office experience. She most recently served as secretary for the acting warden in the state of Michigan' correctional system.
 - Ashley Ellsworth, Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Field Representative
 - ✓ Started with AASA May 3, 2021
 - ✓ For the past 3.5 years she has worked at Tri-County Office on Aging, previously as the Senior Proxy Program Coordinator and most recently as the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Coordinator.
 - Ryan Connelly, Financial Quality and Grant Support Division analyst
 - ✓ Started with AASA May 17, 2021
 - ✓ Ryan has come to us after working as a Financial Analyst for the MDHHS Environmental Health and Vital Records divisions for 2.5 years. He also served as the lead COVID-19 budget liaison for Public Health Administration during the pandemic.
 - Jordan Incorvaia, Health Promotion and Policy Management Division Intern
 - ✓ Starting with AASA May 24, 2021.
 - ✓ Jordan is a Master of Public Policy student at the University of Michigan.
- Thank you to the Commission for your partnership and leadership. And a public “thank you” to the AASA team for their hard work.
- Dr. Travis shared AASA’s accomplishments in her second year as the Senior Deputy Director. She offered thanks for the collective AASA team effort in accomplishing these milestones. The presentation listing the accomplishments is included with the minutes.

LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Jen Hunt, AASA State Assistant Administrator provided legislative and communication updates via power point presentation. The presentation slides are included with the

minutes.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided the following updates:

- State budget – looking at the issue of authorizations for spending. House of Representatives has indicated putting parameters on authorizations and issuing quarterly allotments for expenditures other than title programs.
- Impact will be on local provider network as additional challenges would occur with more frequent allotments of funds to the network necessitating more local action to put dollars into service contracts.
- FY 22 federal budget – no change since the last meeting. Hope is the budget will be approved by October 1 to avoid the need for resolutions.
- Grant expenditure report was shared and discussed. Report is attached to the minutes.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the potential quarterly allotments.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaTosch providing authorization for the Advocacy Committee to draft an informational letter outlining concerns around quarterly payment allotments and further discussion to bring action to the next CSA meeting. Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 for the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (SLTCOP)

Cynthia Farrell, Manager, Supportive Adult Services Section, provided an overview stating the purpose of the Act is to award the Michigan Advocacy Program grant funds to enhance the capacity of the SLTCOP's response during the COVID-19 public health emergency and resolve resident complaints about abuse and neglect. Funds received through this grant will supplement and not supplant existing SLTCOP funding and will be spend in a manner consistent with the Elder Justice Act Section 2042(b). SLTCOP will pay salary, benefits, and education and outreach material development.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg to approve the Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 for the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Commissioner Greenhut seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 USDA Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Funding

Kristina Leonardi, Director, Health Promotion and Policy Management Division provided an overview stating with this program each lead agency would receive 150-\$20 coupon books to distribute. Additionally, Fiscal Year 2020 unredeemed coupons will be returned to the county of origin in the form of coupon books.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlueter to approve the Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 USDA Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Funding. Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

c. Request for Approval of Distribution of Wisewoman Funding as part of Senior Project Fresh

Kristina Leonardi, Director, Health Promotion and Policy Management Division provided an overview stating the purchase of coupon books by the MDHHS Wisewoman program will total 520 coupon booklets across eleven sites to be distributed to Wisewoman participants. Each booklet will include 10 coupons at \$2 each.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strohl to approve the Request for Approval of Distribution of Wisewoman Funding as part of Senior Project Fresh. Commissioner Milton-Ramsey seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection Update

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided an update on this project and his presentation of the AASA-issued transmittal letter is included with the minutes.

b. In Service Session – AIP Funding and Funded Services

Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director, provided this training and his presentation is included with the minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next *virtual* Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday June 18, 2021, with a Public Hearing following at 1:00 p.m.

Please note, these meeting are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing technical assistance should contact Brenda Ross at rossb11@michigan.gov at leave five business days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commission Chair Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Wishart. Commissioners and AASA leadership staff introduced themselves to the guests joining the meeting. Commission Chair Wishart provided guidelines for those wishing to speak to the commissioners.

Jason Maciejewski with Area Agency on Aging 1C addressed the Commission. He provided a brief overview of the activities that occurred during virtual Older Michiganians Day and Senior Action Week. The activities are available to view on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/109169847347268/videos/489051292526240> (You should be able to view the video without a Facebook account.)

Bette Morris with Plainwell Pines Assisted Living and Rehabilitation Facility addressed the Commission. She provided testimony of the positive impact animatronic pets are having in her community. They have found these pets to be a bright spot in what has turned out to be the toughest year of her career. Pet adoptions were held and residents receiving the pets have voiced their happiness with no longer being alone. She offered thanks for this wonderful program and the impact it has had on individuals.

Joe (Jim) White with Eaton County Medical Care Facility addressed the Commission. As activity director he has observed the positive impact animatronic pets are having on residents. They recently held an outdoor picnic and “pet owners” even took them to this event.

Sara Moore with Mission Point of Holly addressed the Commission. She took a different approach in distributing the animatronic pets in her facility. She approached each resident based on background information and family input and identified 33 participants to “adopt” the pets. They bought toys, collars, and other items to personalize the adoption experience. She shared a video which can be found at this link:



Holly Pet
Adoption.mov

Sara Barth with Livonia Woods addressed the Commission. When the boxes arrived containing animatronic pets, it was like Christmas morning. They offered opportunities for the residents to hold the pets, and no one would give them back, so they just proceeded with an adoption event. They are the only pets she allows in the dining room!

Dawn Day with Hartford Nursing and Rehabilitation Center address the Commission. Animatronic pets were received in May and an adoption event was held. Residents had the opportunity to view pets and picked the ones they wanted and named their pets.

Tammy Cordes with Michigan Elder Justice Commission with the Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program addressed the Commission. She shared a power point presentation about animatronic pets which is included with the minutes.

Emil Bellenbaum from Roscommon County addressed the Commission. He is a 71-year-old senior adult claiming to speak on behalf of the residents and members of the Roscommon senior center. He believes a staff member, who handles the day-to-day activities at the center, should not have contact with older adults. He is registered sex offender and should not have contact with older, vulnerable adults. Mr. Bellenbaum has reached out to state legislators who have stated that if no laws were broken, they will not help. It is his belief AASA guidelines for background checks states sex offenders should have contact with older adults – he agrees with no exceptions.

Senior Citizens of the Year



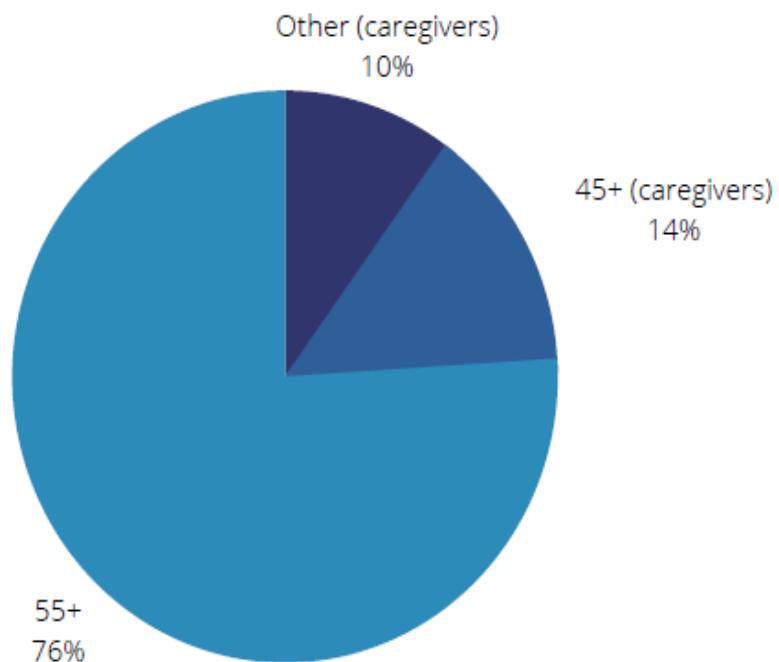
Dr. Brenda Suerac Eaton, Lansing



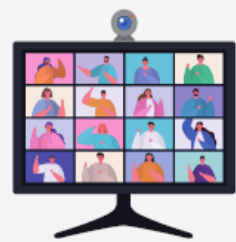
Gloria Kovnot, Diamondale

GetSetUp

Age Breakdown



4.5 Star Rating Out Of 5 By Michigan Learners



Michiganders are highly engaged taking almost double the classes of the general learners (who average 2-3 per month)



Michiganders have met former colleagues (some 40 years later) in classes



Michiganders have met friendly local faces in classes and connected with learners around the globe

GetSetUp

Most Popular Classes



Get Moving with Chair Yoga



Morning Fitness Core Training Seated



Getting Started with Zoom for Beginners



Line Dancing: The Hustle



Morning Fitness: Balance & Flexibility



How to use Nextdoor



Sell Your Products Online



Tai Chi for Beginners

Guides From Michigan

Shirley Mitchell - Learner to Guide

- Learn Line Dancing: The Hustle
- Get Moving by Line Dancing The Hustle!

Sarah Bailey- Learner to Guide

- Hand Crafts Social Hour
- Intro to Counted Cross Stitch

- 80,566 users
- 3,106 GSU TV live views
- 24 learners have become community ambassadors
- Transition from tech to health and wellness

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

- Michigan voters overwhelmingly amended the state constitution to create an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, and now the MICRC is ready to hear from the public to help ensure fair, representative districts.
- Members of the public are invited to address the Commission live at meetings and public hearings. Detailed information about these in-person and virtual forums at [Michigan.gov/MICRC](https://www.michigan.gov/MICRC)
- Public comment: P.O. Box 30318, Lansing MI 48909.
- <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/>
- 16 public hearings throughout the state
- Opportunities for other forums while Commission is in a city/area.

All hearings
start at 6 p.m.

Jackson

American 1 Event Center
128 W. Ganson St.
Jackson 49201

May 11

Kalamazoo

Wings Event Center
3600 Vanrick Dr
Kalamazoo 49001

May 13

Marquette

The Northern Center at
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave
Marquette 49855

May 18

Gaylord

Treetop Resorts
3962 Wilkinson Rd
Gaylord 49735

May 20

Midland

Great Hall Banquet & Convention
Center
5121 Bay City Rd
Midland 48642

May 25

Lansing

Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing 48933

May 27

Flint

The Dort Financial Center
3501 Lapeer Rd
Flint 48503

June 1

Dearborn

Ford Community and
Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn 48126

June 3

Novi

Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi 48374

June 8

Pontiac

Centerpoint Marriott
3555 Centerpoint Pkwy
Pontiac 48341

June 10

Detroit

The Village Dome at
Fellowship Chapel
7707 W. Outer Dr
Detroit 48235

June 15

Detroit

TCF Center
1 Washington Blvd
Detroit 48226

June 17

Port Huron

Blue Water Convention Center
800 Harker St
Port Huron 48060

June 22

Warren

MRCC Banquet Center
23401 Mound Rd
Warren 48901

June 24

Muskegon

VanDyke Convention Center
939 Third Street
Muskegon 49440

June 29

Grand Rapids

Devos Center
303 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids 49503

July 1

* Locations and dates subject to change

Legislative update

- Budget
 - DCW pay increase in Senate budget. Placeholder in House.
 - Creation of a Dementia Unit at AASA has a placeholder in Senate budget
- Criminal Background Check bill – HB 4325
- PACE bill – SB 203
- Long term care ombudsman – SB 213
- Guardianship bills – HB 4847- 4850
- HCBS Access bill (federal)



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

AGING & ADULT SERVICES AGENCY

DATE: May 18, 2021
TO: Area Agency on Aging Directors
FROM: Dr. Alexis Travis, Senior Deputy Director
SUBJECT: NAPIS Data Collection Updates – Requirements for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022

TRANSMITTAL LETTER #2021-454

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) has a responsibility to provide policy guidance to area agencies on aging (AAAs) on data collection and reporting requirements for the National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) related to aging programs and services funded under approved annual implementation plans (AIPs).

Please be advised of the following updated reporting requirements for FY 2022, beginning October 1, 2021:

- NAPIS client registration reporting will allow for expanded data collection on client gender. This collection will allow the client to report gender assigned at birth (e.g., female, male, other, prefer not to say, no response/unknown) as well as transgendered or gender non-conforming.
- NAPIS client registration reporting will allow for expanded data collection on client sexual orientation, including straight/heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, prefer not to say, other, no response/unknown.

Consistent with previous data collection updates, AASA will add the option to submit this data in NAPIS during FY 2020, but the data collection will be a required component starting October 1, 2021 for FY 2022. As a reminder, while expanded data elements will be required as part of NAPIS data collection for FY 2022, responses to questions are voluntary for clients. Per federal regulations related to NAPIS data collection, responses to questions cannot be made a condition of receiving NAPIS-reportable services.

AASA is developing a training plan to assist with this data collection. Online training will be provided to assist AAAs and service providers in asking these questions in an inclusive and affirming manner to ensure service provider staff create a safe and welcoming environment for all clients. An update will be provided on the provision of data collection training as the details are finalized.

AT/slw

cc: Scott Wamsley, AASA Deputy Director
Cindy Masterson, Director, AASA Operations and Aging Network Support Division
AASA Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Staff
AASA Financial Quality & Grant Support Staff

Dr. Alexis Travis

Second year accomplishments



Leading the aging network's COVID-19 response

- Continued the Quarantine (Q) Box program, resulting in the delivery of a total of 47,584 boxes of non-perishable food to homebound older adults throughout the state.
- Initiated and implemented partnerships with two local food distributors via the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. This initiative provided fresh fruits and vegetables to 108,000 homebound older adults and provided an opportunity to meet with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.
- Partnered with GetSetUp to provide free online classes to over 80,000 older Michiganders to reduce social isolation.
- Partnered with BellAge to implement CV19 Checkup, a tool designed to give individuals specific and actionable insights on ways to understand what they can do to lower their risk for COVID-19. Co-authored "If only we knew" opinion piece with the BellAge team.
- Distributed 2,200 animatronic pets to long-term care facility residents throughout the state living with dementia via the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Secured a \$314,251 coronavirus rapid response grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to implement GetSetUp, CV19 Checkup and to launch the Michigan aging resources toll-free phone line.
- Served as staff lead for the seniors workgroup of the Protect Michigan Commission, an advisory group to MDHHS and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.
- Implemented strategies around vaccine efforts for homebound older adults in coordination with the Public Health Administration and secured \$3 million in federal immunization funding for the aging network.



Elevating the direct care workforce

- Supported efforts to implement premium pay for direct care workers in response to the pandemic and advocated for inclusion of DCWs funded by Older Americans Act programs.
- Continued leading the Direct Care Worker Advisory Committee which produced a policy brief on PPE and established core competencies and ethical standards for Michigan's direct care workers.
- Secured a contract with Centers for Health Care Strategies worth \$209,800 to conduct a national scan of the industry landscape.
- Partnered with ADvancing States to promote the Connect to Care Jobs platform in Michigan, allowing job seekers and long term supports.



Dr. Alexis Travis

Second year accomplishments

Strengthening the aging network

- Released the 2021-2023 State Plan on Aging via a virtual event featuring network leaders and ACL Administrator Lance Robertson.
- Published the 2021-2023 State Plan on Aging in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Mandarin, ensuring all versions are reader accessible.
- Updated the aging network criminal background check policy and procedures to ensure safety and well-being for our clients.
- Initiated the two-year Advancing Equity Through Systems Change learning collaborative for 150 aging network members.
- Developed a diversity, equity and inclusion plan for the agency.
- Implemented diversity, equity and inclusion requirements in contracts, annual implementation plans and aging network practices.
- Published an opinion-editorial in the *Lansing State Journal* on aging network diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.
- Secured \$498,898 and completed a pilot for National Core Indicators-Aging and Disability (NCI-AD).
- Oversaw the successful AIS cloud migration project, preserving and protecting all aging network data.
- Secured \$692,489 from the Ryan White Rebate for Food and Friendship Connections, a program designed decrease social isolation and food insecurity in the people age 60 and over living with HIV.
- Secured \$232,500 for Boxes, Bags and Buddies, a three-year grant designed to promote meal preparation skills by allowing home-delivered meals clients to select an optional meal. Social connectedness is encouraged by having “buddies” assist with meal preparation.



Elevating Michigan on a national level

- Appointed to the ADvancing States Board of Directors.
- Participated in the Healthy Aging Think Tank convened by Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Participated in a ASTHO and Alzheimer's Association learning collaborative resulting in the publication of a dementia case study.
- Presented at the 2021 American Society on Aging conference on intentional focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the design of several key projects, including the State Plan on Aging.